

Daily Commercial
1/24/14

Central Scrub

Notice of Start of Objection Period

**Opportunity to Object to the draft decision
regarding the Central Scrub project**

The Seminole and Lake George Ranger District of the Ocala National Forest has prepared an environmental assessment, draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for Central scrub project. The proposed project that would:

1. create about 6,400 acres of habitat for the Florida scrub-jay through timber sales, mechanical treatments, and prescribed burning. Activities would include commercial harvesting sand pine and crooked wood, road reconstruction and maintenance, mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, and seeding sand pine.

2. restore natural hydrology of the Long Pond/Big Prairie area by relocating about 2.1 miles of Forest Road 14-2.8 from around the Long Pond prairie system and either relocating the Forest Road 05 to bypass Big Prairie by relocating about 0.7 miles of Level 3 road or reconstructing this section of FS 05 and installing a better culvert system that would allow natural water flow between the two parts of Big Prairie that area separated by FS Road 05. The relocation would require new road construction on about 3.3 miles or 2.9 miles depending on which Big Prairie restoration is done. Activities would include road construction and road obliteration, and

3. change some designations in the existing road system throughout the project area.

The proposed project or activity is subject to the pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The EA and draft DN/FONSI are available on-line at: <http://go.gpo.gov/PSN12>. These documents are also available for review at Seminole Ranger District office. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained from: Janet Hinchee, 40929 SR 19, Umatilla, FL 32784, 352-669-3153, jhinchee@fs.fed.us

How to Object and Timeframe

The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Daily Commercial (Leesburg, Florida). The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection, and that those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by another other source.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities §218.8(d).

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Written objections, including attachments, must be filed with: Mike Herrin, District Ranger, 40929 SR 19, Umatilla, FL 32784, fax (352-669-2386), office (352-669-3153), e-mail (mherrin@fs.fed.us). The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to objections-southern-forest@fs.fed.us.

Please state "Central Scrub" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

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